International Anti-Drug Operation

1016. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Customs have busted an International drug cartel in the first major international anti-drug operation involving India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether links in this regard in India could be tracted out; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) An international drug cartel has been busted with the cooperation of foreign agencies, following a seizure made by Delhi Customs at IGI Airport in November, 1994.

(b) As a result of our cooperation with German and Spanish authorities, 9 persons got arrested abroad, 7 kgs of heroin was seized in Spain and several bank accounts have been frozen.

(c) and (d) Complaint has been filed in court against the German national from whose possession 8 kg heroin was seized at IGI Airport. If any other persons is found to be involved, action will be taken against him under the law.

Shortage of Currency Notes

1017. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of currency notes of different denominations at present, especially in the major business centres of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Madras etc., mainly attributable to shortage of printing paper and inputs required for printing of fresh currency notes; and

(b) if so, what is the extent of shortage of currency notes of various denominations and what steps have been taken to overcome the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The annual production capacity of the Government note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas, is 3741 million pieces and 1871 million pieces, respectively, with the present product mix. As against this total capacity of 5612 million pieces, the RBI's annual requirement for fresh notes during 1994-95 was 14010 million pieces. Thus the existing two note-printing presses are able to meet only about 40.50% of RBI's demand for fresh notes.

In order to abridge the gap between demand and supply, following measures have been initiated.

(i) Two new note-printing presses are being set up by RBI-one at Salboni in West Bengal and other at Mysore in Karnataka.

(ii) Government has taken up modernisation of the existing note-printing presses at Nashik and Dewas.

(iii) RBI has put issuable soiled notes back into circulation by salvaging maximum number of reissuable notes and recycling them.

(iv) Re. 1/-, Rs. 2/-, & Rs. 5/- have been coinised and the capacity so released is diverted for Production of notes of higher denominations.

Consumption of Cotton

1018. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the spinning capacity of cotton in each state and its production;

(b) the details of consumption of cotton by powerloom and handlooms, separately;